SCREENING EXPRESSION PROFILE OF GROWTH SPECIFIC GENES IN SWINE AND FUNCTIONAL CDNA CHIP PREPARED BY USING THE SAME

Technical Field

The present invention relates to screening of the expression profile of growth specific genes in swine and a functional cDNA chip using the same. More particularly, the present invention relates to screening of the expression profile of growth specific gene which are specifically expressed according to the growth stage in the muscle and fat tissues of swine, and a functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific genes according to breeds and tissues of swine, which is prepared by integrating only the specific genes obtained from the screening.

Background Art

The development of molecular biology exerts an enormous influence to fields of the genetic breeding of domestic animals and thereby allows great development in the genetic linkage map and quantitative trait loci, QTL map of swine. Particularly, the mapping of economic traits-related QTL and candidate genes which are expected to affect various traits have been found and directly applied to the hog raising industry. So far, the swine genome mapping have been conducted by the internationally formalized cooperated workers such as PiGMaP (Internetional Pig Genome Mapping Project) consortium map (Archibald et al., 1995) and USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) gene map (Rohrer et al., 1994), based on the 1800 markers with bound genes, to construct genetic linkage maps (Archibald, 1994; Marklund et al., 1996; Rohrer et al.,

1996). Also, in recent, research to identify DNA markers related to economically important traits has been actively conducted (Nielsen et al., 1996)

The construction of the pig genetic map is an important course to identify a specific marker related with quantitative traits (Andersson et al., 1994; Archibald, 1994; Schook et al., 1994). Based on the relation between the marker present in No. 6 chromosome of pig and economically important growth traits or carcass traits, a genetic linkage map has been constructed (Clamp et al., 1992; Louis et al., 1994; Chevaletn et al., 1996).

The traits at which the improvement of swine aims include number born per litter, growth rate of growing pigs, feed efficiency, increase in carcass rate and cutability related to back fat thickness. Generally, the genetic correlation coefficient between the daily body weight gain and the feed efficiency is very high and thus, the improvement of growth rate of swine may simultaneously cause improvement of the feed efficiency. For example, when the feed is limitedly supplied, the heritability of the daily body weight gain is 0.14 to 0.76, average of 0.30, and the genetic correlation coefficient between the daily body weight gain and the feed efficiency is -1.07 to -0.93, average of -1.0. Thus, it is noted that there is very high correlation between the daily body weight gain and the feed efficiency. Accordingly, the daily body weight gain is an important trait showing weight-gain performance of finishing pigs.

Up to now, several technologies to analyze gene expression at the mRNA level such as northern blotting, differential display, sequential analysis of gene expression and dot blot analysis have

been used to examine the genetic difference in swine. However, these methods have disadvantages which are not suitable for simultaneous analysis of a plurality of expressed products. In recent, a new technology such as cDNA microarray to overcome such disadvantages has been developed. The cDNA microarray becomes one of the strongest means to study gene expression in various living bodies. This technology is applied to simultaneous expression of numerous genes and discovery of genes in a large scale, as well as polymorphism screening and mapping of genetic DNA clone. It is a highly advanced RNA expression analysis technology to quantitatively analyze RNA transcribed from already know or not-known genes.

DNA chip types which are currently used include composite DNA chips constructed by designing a primer based and combining genes from cDNA library on the data base information and functional DNA chips constructed by combining related genes based on the existing references. When the composite DNA chip is used for translation, there is difficulty in translation due to the action of non-related genes and enormous efforts are required to finally interpret the biological roles. Also, since it is based on the database, there may be difficulties due to a new gene without information or possibility of partial absence of related gene. Meanwhile, the functional DNA chip is easy to be translated but requires another collection of genes for characterization of genes which are not described in the existing references or not-know for their functions. Therefore, the DNA construction on a chip is very important for effective interpretation.

Considering these matters, the present inventors have introduced the cDNA microarray technology into screening of the

expression profile of genes related to growth in a specific tissue of swine and made a functional cDNA chip by integrating only the specific gene identified from the screening which would be applied to swine improvement with excellent growth performance and screening and function analysis of growth specific genes according to breeds and tissues of swine.

Disclosure of Invention

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to screen an expression profile of growth-related specific genes by hybridizing a substrate integrated with a probe prepared from total RNA isolated from the muscle and fat tissues of swine with a target DNA from the muscle and fat tissues of swine.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific genes according to breeds and tissues of swine, which is prepared by integrating only the specific genes obtained from the screening.

According to the present invention, the above-described objects are accomplished by preparing thousands of ESTs from total RNA isolated from the muscle and fat tissues of swine by PCR, cloning them to analyze and screen their nucleotide sequences in the database, amplifying the ESTs by PCR, followed isolation and purification, arraying the product with a control group on a slide using a DNA chip array, preparing a target DNA from total RNA isolated from the muscle and fat tissues of swine to screen an expression profile of a growth-related gene, hybridizing the slide (probe DNA) with the target DNA, scanning the product to obtain an

image file, examining the expression aspect of the growth-related gene of swine based on the image file, and preparing a functional cDNA chip by integrating only the growth specific genes of swine.

The present invention comprises the steps of preparation of ESTs from muscle and fat tissues of swine and identification of sequence information; preparation of a probe DNA using the ESTs; hybridization of a fluorescent-labeled target DNA (ESTs) from the muscle and fat tissues of swine with the probe DNA, followed by scanning and analysis of an image file; examination of an expression profile of a growth-related gene; and preparing a functional cDNA by integrating only the growth specific gene.

The functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific genes according to breeds and tissues of swine is prepared by the following steps: preparing 4434 ESTs from total RNA isolated from the muscle and fat tissues of swine by PCR; arraying the ESTs with an enzyme control on a slide using a DNA chip array; preparing a target DNA having 3-dCTP or 5-dCTP bound from total RNA isolated from the muscle and fat tissues of swine; hybridizing the slide (probe DNA) with the target DNA, scanning the product and analyzing the image file to examine the expression aspect of the growth-related gene of swine; and preparing a functional cDNA chip by integrating only the screened growth specific gene of swine.

The functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific genes according to breeds and tissues of swine according to the present invention comprises a probe comprising growth specific genes specifically expressed in the muscle and fat tissues of swine and a substrate on which the probe is immobilized.

The growth specific genes immobilized on a DNA microarray of a functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific genes according to breeds and tissues of swine according to the present invention comprise the nucleotide sequences of novel growth factors I, II, III, IV and V set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 5.

The substrate of the functional cDNA chip according to the present invention is preferably a polymer film such as silicone wafer, glass, polycarbonate, membrane, polystyrene or polyurethane. The DNA microarray according to the present invention may be prepared by immobilizing a probe on a substrate by a conventional method for preparing a DNA microarray, including photolithography, piezoelectric printing, micro pipetting, spotting and the like. In the present invention, the spotting method is used.

The kit for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine comprises the functional cDNA chip having the growth specific genes of swine integrated, Cy5-dCTP or Cy3-dCTP bound cDNA from RNA of the tissue to be screened, a fluorescence scanning system and computer analysis system.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Now, the concrete construction of the present invention will be explained through the following Examples. However, the present invention is not limited thereto.

[Example]

Example 1: Screening of expression profile of growth-related specific gene in swine

In order to screen the expression profile of a specific gene relating to growth in swine, a probe DNA was prepared from total RNA isolated from muscle and fat tissues of Kagoshima Berkshire and the total RNA of the tissues was fluorescently labeled to prepare a target DNA. These DNAs are hybridized and scanned. The resulting image file was analyzed to screen the growth-related specific gene of swine, which is then cloned to determine the nucleotide sequence.

Preparation Example 1: Preparation and array of probe DNA

Firstly, probe DNA, which was cDNA amplified by PCR, was prepared and attached to a slide glass. Total RNA was extracted from the muscle and fat tissues of the longissimus dorsi of *Kagoshima Berkshire* (body weight of 30 kg and 90 kg) using a RNA extraction kit (Qiagen, Germany) according to the manual and mRNA was extracted using an oligo (dT) column. The extracted mRNA sample was subjected to RT-PCR using SP6, T3 forward primer, T7 reverse primer (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, England) to synthesize cDNA. The total volume of each PCR reactant was 100 $\mu\ell$. 100 pM of forward primer and reverse primer were each transferred to a 96-well PCR plate (Genetics, England). Each well contained 2.5 mM dNTP, 10×PCR buffer, 25 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.2 μg of DNA template, 2.5 units of Taq polymerase. PCR was performed in GeneAmp PCR system 5700 (AB Applied BioSystem, Canada) under the following conditions: total 30 cycles of 30 seconds at 94°C, 45 seconds at 58°C, 1 minute at 72°C.

The size of the amplified DNA was identified by agarose gel electrophoresis. The PCR product was precipitated with ethanol in 96-well plate, dried and stored at -20℃

Total 4434 cDNAs (ESTs), prepared as described above, were cloned to analyze nucleotide sequences of genes which swine has and their genetic information was identified from the database at NCBI. The genes having information were isolated and purified by PCR. The genetic locus and map for the total 4434 cDNAs (ESTs) were constructed. The total 4434 cDNAs (ESTs) and 300 yeast controls were arrayed in an area of 1.7 cm^2. Then, the probe DNA was spotted on a slide glass for microscope (produced by Corning), coated with CMT-GAPSTM aminosilane using Microgrid II (Biorobotics). The probe DNA was printed onto Microgrid II using a split pin. The pin apparatus was approached to the well in the microplate to inject the solution into the slide glass (1 to 2 nL). After printing of the probe DNA, the slide was dried and the spotted DNA and the slide were UV cross-linked at 90 mJ using Stratalinker TM (Stratagene, USA), washed twice with 0.2% SDS at room temperature for 2 minutes and washed once with third distilled water at room temperature for 2 minutes. After washing, the slide was dipped in a water tank at 95°C for 2 minutes and was blocked for 15 minutes by adding a blocking solution (a mixture of 1.0 g $NaBH_4$ dissolved in 300 mL of pH7.4 phosphate buffer and 100 mL of anhydrous ethanol). Then, the slide was washed three times with 0.2% SDS at room temperature for 1 minute and once with third distilled water at room temperature for 2 minutes and dried in the air.

Preparation Example 2: Preparation of target DNA and hybridization

In order to prepare a target DNA to screen the growth-related genes in the muscle and fat tissues of a pig, the muscle tissue on

the longissimus dorsi area was taken from the *Kagoshima Berkshires* having body weights of 30 kg and 90 kg. The fat tissue was taken from the Kagoshima Berkshire having a body weight of 30 kg. The muscle and fat tissues were cut into 5~8 mm length, frozen with liquid nitrogen and stored at -70°C.

Total RNAs were isolated from 0.2 to 1.0 g of the experimental group and the control group according to the manual of Trizol ™ kit (Life Technologies, Inc.) to prepare the target DNA. Trizol™ was added to the tissue in an amount of 1 mL of Trizol™ per 50 to 100 mg of tissue and disrupted using a glass-Teflon or Polytron homogenizer. The disrupted granules were centrifuged at 4°C at a speed of 12,000 g for 10 minutes and 1 mL of the supernatant was aliquoted. 200 $\mu\ell$ of chloroform was added to each aliquot, voltexed for 15 seconds, placed on ice for 15 minutes and centrifuged at 4°C at a speed of 12,000 g for 10 minutes. Chloroform of the same amount was again added thereto, voltexed for 15 seconds, placed on ice for 15 minutes and centrifuged at 4°C at a speed of 12,000 g for 10 minutes. The supernatant was transferred to a new tube. 500 $\mu\ell$ of isopropanol was added to the tube, voltexed and placed on ice for 15 minutes. The ice was cooled and centrifuged at 4°C at a speed of 12,000 g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed, mixed with 1 mL of 75% cold ethanol and centrifuged at 4°C at a speed of 12,000 g for 5 minutes. The supernatant was removed, freeze-dried on a clean bench for 30 minutes and take into 20 $\mu\ell$ of RNase-free water or DEPC water to dissolve RNA. The total DNA concentration was set to 40 μg/17 $\mu\ell$ for electrophoresis.

The target DNA was prepared according to the standard first-strand cDNA synthesis. Briefly, according to the method described by Schuler (1996), 40 μg of total RNA and oligo dT-18mer primer (Invitrogen Life Technologies) were mixed, heated at 65°C for 10 minutes and cooled at 4°C for 5 minutes. Then, 1 μl of a mixture of 25 mM dATP, dGTP and dTTP, 1 μl of 1 mM dCTP (Promega) and 2 μl of 1 mM cyanine 3-dCTP or 2 μl of 1 mM cyanine 5-dCTP, 20 units of RNase inhibitor (Invitrogen Life Technology), 100 units of M-MLV RTase, 2 μl of 10 × first strand buffer were added thereto and mixed with a pipette. The reaction mixture was incubated at 38°C for 2 hours and the non-bound nucleotide was removed by ethanol precipitation. Here, DEPC treated sterile water was used.

The slide, prepared above, was pre-hybridized with a hybridization solution (5×SSC, 0.2% SDS, 1 mg/mL herring sperm DNA) at 65℃ for 1 hour. The target DNA labeled with cyanine 3 (Cy-3) and cyanine 5 (Cy-5) was re-suspended in 20 μl of the hybridization solution at 95℃ and denatured for 2 minutes. Then, the slide were hybridized with the solution at 65℃ overnight. The hybridization was performed in a humidity chamber covered with a cover glass (Grace Bio-Lab).

After hybridization, the slide was washed 4 times with 2×SSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for 5 minutes while vigorously stirred in a dancing shaker. Then the slide was washed twice with 0.2×SSC for 5 minutes and 0.1×SSC for 5 minutes at room temperature.

The slid was scanned on ScanArray 5000(GSI Lumonics Version 3.1) with a pixel size of 50 μm. The target DNA labeled by cyanine 3-dCTP was scanned at 565 nm and the target DNA labeled by cyanine 5-dCTP was scanned at 670 nm. Two fluorescence intensities were

standardized by linear scanning of cyanine 3-dCTP- and cyanine 5-dCTP-labeled spots. The slide was again scanned on Scanarray 4000XL with a pixel size of 10 ㎛. The resulting TIFF image files were analyzed on Quantarray software version 2.1 and the background was automatically subtracted. The intensity of each spot was put into Microsoft Excel from Quantarray.

As a result, the following 5 novel growth-related genes were identified.

1. GF (growth factor) Ⅰgene: SEQ ID NO 1

gagaccagca aatactatgt gaccatcatt gatgccccag gacacagaga cttcatcaaa 60
aacatgatta caggcacatc ccaggctgac tgtgctgtcc tgattgttgc tgctggtgtt 120
ggtgaatttg aagctggtat ctccaagaac gggcagaccc gcgagcatgc tcttctggct 180
tacaccctgg gtgtgaaaca gctgattgtt ggtgtcaaca aaatggattc caccgagcca 240
ccatacagtc agaagagata cgaggaaatc gttaaggaag tcagcaccta cattaagaaa 300
attggctaca accctgacac agtagcattt gtgccaattt ctggttggaa tggtgacaac 360
atgctggagc caagtgctaa tatgccttgg ttcaagggat ggaaagtcac ccgcaaagat 420
ggcagtgcca gtggcaccac gctgctggaa gctttggatt gtatcctacc accaactcgt 480
ccaactgaca agcctctgcg actgcccctc caggatgtct ataaaattgg aggcattggc 540
actgtccctg tgggccgagt ggagactggt gttctcaaac ctggcatggt ggttaccttt 600
gctccagtca atgtaacaac tgaagtcaag tctgttgaaa tgcaccatga agctttgagt

2. GF (growth factor) Ⅱgene: SEQ ID NO 2

gctgactgat cgggagaatc agtctatctt aatcaccgga gaatccgggg caggaaagac 60
tgtgaacacg aagcgtgtca tccagtactt tgccacaatc gccgtcactg gggagaagaa 120
gaaggaggaa cctactcctg gcaaaatgca ggggactctg gaagatcaga tcatcagtgc 180
caacccccctg ctcgaggcct ttggcaacgc caagaccgtg aggaacgaca actcctctcg 240
ctttggtaaa ttcatcagga tccacttcgg taccactggg aagctggctt ctgctgacat 300
cgaaacatat cttctagaga agtctagagt cactttccag ctaaaggcag aaagaagcta 360

ccacattttt tatcagatca tgtctaacaa gaagccagag ctcattgaaa tgctcctgat 420

caccaccaac ccatatgact acgccttcgt cagtcaaggg gagatcactg tccccagcat 480

tgatgaccaa gaggagctga tggccacaga tagtgccatt gaaatcctgg

3. GF (growth factor) Ⅲgene: SEQ ID NO 3

gttgttcctt taaatatgat gttgccacaa gctgcattgg agactcattg cagtaatatt 60

tccaatgtgc cacctacaag agagatactt caagtctttc ttactgatgt acacatgaag 120

gaagtaattc agcagttcat tgatgtcctg agtgtagcag tcaagaaacg tgtcttgtgt 180

ttacctaggg atgaaaacct gacagcaaat gaagttttga aaacgtgtga taggaaagca 240

aatgttgcaa tcctgttttc tgggggcatt gattccatgg ttattgcaac ccttgctgac 300

cgtcatattc ctttagatga accaattgat cttcttaatg tagctttcat agctgaagaa 360

aagaccatgc caactacctt taacagagaa gggaataaac agaaaaataa atgtgaaata 420

ccttcagaag aattctctaa agatgttgct gctgctgctg ctgacagtcc taataaacat 480

tcagtgtacc agatcgaatc acaggaaggg cgggactaaa ggaactacaa gctgttagc

4. GF (growth factor) Ⅳgene: SEQ ID NO 4

catttatgag ggctacgcgc tgccgcacgc catcatgcgc ctggacctgg cgggccgcga 60

tctcaccgac tacctgatga agatcctcac tgagcgtggc tactccttct gaccacagct 120

gagcgcgaga tcgtgcgcga catcaaggag aagctgtgct acgtggccct ggacttcgag 180

aacgagatgg cgacggccgc ctcctcctcc tccctggaaa agagctacga gctgccagac 240

gggcaggtca tcaccatcgg caacgagcgc ttccgctgcc cggagacgct cttccagccc 300

tccttcatcg gtatggagtc ggcgggcatt cacgagacca cctacaacag catcatgaag 360

tgtgacatcg acatcaggaa ggacctgtat gccaacaacg tcatgtcggg gggcaccac

5. GF (growth factor) Ⅴgene: SEQ ID NO 5

tatatagaac cgaatcacgt acactgggcc tgaccaagca gggccaaaac aaggcaacct 60

aggaggttat aaaataggta tacgcgcgct gacacataca tactcactac ccgaacgcgg 120

ggacaactag ggctccgcca taagccatcc tttcctggtc gtcgatgttg cgggctgcag 180

ttatagggct gccaaccgcc atacacacct taccagccac ttattaagtt acatccacga 240

gggctctgta ccacccctaa gcagtggcag tggtagccgc tgcccgctta ccctgcgcag 300

tgttggtgct agctccgtcc taagcttccc cgatagccgc cgcttttttac acaccatcgg 360

cggactagac accgttggtt gcagcgtaag cgtctatggt agcagctgcg gcgaccgccg 420

tgtagccagc ttactacatg ttagtttcag caaccaccct gccaataccc gtgttcccta 480

ctccaactct gtcggtttca gccgcag

Example 2: Preparation of the inventive functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine

The nucleotide sequences of growth factors I, II, III, IV and V set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 to 5, as growth specific genes according to the growth stage of swine screened in Example 1, were immobilized on a DNA microarray and fabricated into a functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine by the method of Preparation Example 1.

Example 3: Preparation of the inventive kit for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine

A kit for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine comprising the functional cDNA chip fabricated in Example 2, Cy5-dCTP or Cy3-dCTP bound cDNA from RNA of the tissue to be screened, a fluorescence scanning system and a computer analysis system was fabricated.

Industrial Applicability

As explained through the Examples, the present invention relates to screening of the expression profile of growth specific

genes in swine and a functional cDNA chip using the same and provides nucleotide sequences of novel growth factors related to the growth in the muscle and fat tissues of swine. Also, the present invention provides a functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine prepared by integrating only the growth specific genes obtained as described above. Therefore, the functional cDNA chip for screening and function analysis of growth specific gene according to breeds and tissues of swine can be used in the swine improvement and breeding of a new breed, thereby being very useful for the hog raising industry.